

Antichrist

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The word is "**antichrist**", made up of two words: "anti", meaning against or opposed to, and "Christ", referring to Jesus Christ. It means one who is opposed to, or usurping the place of, Christ.

Even though we are told that there will be many antichrists, we are also told that there is one who is considered the "official" antichrist, as indicated in 1st John {2:18} Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that [the] antichrist shall come ["official"], even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

This antichrist not only will be opposed to Jesus Christ, but will also work against Him and try to take His place in the affairs of the world. He will claim to have changed God's official law and have the power to be able to do it and also have the authority to make such change(es). In this way he tries to take the place of Jesus Christ.

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation describe who this official antichrist is. They predict this using the time prophecies, especially the 1260-day prophecy referred to many time in both books. This study is beyond the scope of what I can do in this article. However, I can refer you instead to the book I have written on this subject, *The Flashbacks of Revelation*, available through any bookstore.

The Bible texts referring to **antichrist** are listed below (KJV):

1st John {2:18} Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. {2:19} They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. {2:20} But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. {2:21} I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. {2:22} Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son. {2:23} Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. {2:24} Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. {2:25} And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. {2:26} These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. {2:27} But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. {2:28} And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. {2:29} If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1st John {4:1} Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. {4:2} Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: {4:3} And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that **spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. {4:4} Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. {4:5} They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. {4:6} We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

2nd John {1:4} I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. {1:5} And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. {1:6} And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. {1:7} For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an **antichrist**. {1:8} Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. {1:9} Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. {1:10} If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: {1:11} For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

And then there is this verse in Thessalonians:

2nd Thessalonians {2:1} Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, {2:2} That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. {2:3} Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; {2:4} Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** [This is the definition of **antichrist**.] {2:5} Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? {2:6} And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. {2:7} For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. {2:8} And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: {2:9} Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {2:10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {2:11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: {2:12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The little horn of Daniel seven (and eight) is a description of the antichrist. All of the criteria must be true to identify who *the* antichrist really is. These criteria separate those who are merely "against

Christ" from *the* antichrist who usurps the place of God:

1. Came up out of the fourth beast (Rome). Verses 7, 8
2. Came up among the ten horns (the nations that came out of Rome) . Verse 8
3. Another shall arise after the ten horns. Verse 24.
4. Different from the other horns. Verse 24.
5. Whose look was more stout. Verse 20.
6. Plucked up three kingdoms (of those that came out of Rome). Verses 8, 20, 24.
7. Shall speak great words against the Most High (blasphemy, usurping God's place). Verse 25.
8. Shall wear out the saints of the Most High (persecute God's people). Verse 25.
9. Shall think to change times and laws (wants to change God's laws). Verse 25.
10. Given into his hands until a time and times and the dividing of times (have power for 1260 years). Verse 25.

This study of the antichrist is a fascinating undertaking. May God bless you as you study.

Recommended reading:

The Books of Daniel and Revelation in the Bible

The Great Controversy, Ellen G. White

Sermon: *The Letter*, Craig Martin Barnes

The Flashbacks of Revelation, Craig Martin Barnes